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## **Sen. Van Woerkom celebrates Weights and Measures Week**

**Lansing** – State Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, is proud to celebrate March 1-7, 2004 as “Weights and Measures Week” in Michigan. The theme of this year’s week is “Weights and Measures: Ensuring Fair Competition and an Honest Value.”

“Celebrating Weights and Measures Week helps put a spotlight on the importance of the Weights and Measure Act,” Van Woerkom said.

“Weights and Measures Week” in Michigan was declared by the governor again this year. The week also marks the 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America’s first weights and measures law, which was signed on March 2, 1799.

Now the chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry & Tourism, Van Woerkom sponsored legislation updating the weights and measures laws while a member of the House of Representatives.

“It is the goal of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the state Legislature to protect consumers and ensure a fair and equitable playing field for job providers,” Van Woerkom said.

It is estimated that weights and measures impact the state’s economic activity by more than \$170 billion annually.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures Program is responsible for ensuring that everything purchased or sold on the basis of weight, measure or count is done in accordance with state law requirements. The Weights and Measurement Act ensures that consumers or businesses get a fair measure of what they are selling or purchasing.

Michigan weights and measures inspectors use official standards of mass, length, volume, and temperature along with highly accurate weighing and measuring devices to inspect and certify all types of commodities and commercial weighing and measuring devices. These devices include checkout and deli counter scales, gas station dispensers, liquid propane gas meters, elevator scales, airport luggage scales, vehicle scales, livestock scales, and scales used for load limit law enforcement.